

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Donald Schomer et al. § Group Art Unit:  
§  
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned §  
§ Confirmation No.:  
Filed: Concurrently Herewith §  
§ Atty. Docket No.: 2329-00155  
For: Spinal Ligament Modification Devices §

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: April 26, 2006

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement, including completed Form PTO-1449, comprises a list of pertinent art of which Applicants are aware.

The submission of this Information Disclosure Statement and the references submitted therewith is not an admission that the art cited is "prior" with respect to the present invention, nor is it a representation, that no better art exists. Applicants hereby reserve the right to swear behind or otherwise disprove any alleged "prior" nature of any art cited should the facts support and the situation warrant such an action. It is submitted that the art cited does not constitute a bar to the patentability of Applicants' invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or § 103.

Respectfully submitted,



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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	
				Filing Date	
				First Named Inventor	Donald Schomer
				Group Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	2329-00155
<b>U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
AA	US-3,732,858		05-15-1973	Banko	
AB	US-3,945,372		03-23-1976	Milan et al.	
AC	US-4,103,690		08-01-1978	Harris	
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Examiner Signature				Date Considered	

\*EXAMINER: Initial reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST 3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST 16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete including gathering, preparing and submitting the completed application form to the

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				Examiner Name	
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	2329-00155

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	BK	US-6,454,767	09-24-2002	Alleyne	
	BL	US-6,464,682	10-15-2002	Snock	
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	CE	US-2005/0209610	09-22-2005	Carrison	

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>4</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	CF	WO 00/45868	08-10-2000	The Regents of the University of CA		
	CG	WO 01/08571	02-08-2001	Disc-O-Tech Medical Technologies LTD		
	CH	WO 2002/076311	10-03-2002	Roehm		
	CI	WO 97/34536	09-25-1997	Roehm		

**OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate) title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, page(s), volume-issued number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T <sup>2</sup>
	CJ	PCT International Search Report for International Application No PCT/US05/27216 dated November 29, 2005 (2 p )	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered
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